



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

PRESS RELEASE/PSA

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Catawba County Saves Citizens \$1.6 Million on Prescription Drug Costs

Catawba County citizens struggling to cope with an uncertain economy are receiving some real financial relief on their prescription drug purchases thanks to their county government. By participating in the National Association of Counties (NACo) Prescription Drug Discount Card Program, Catawba County citizens have saved over \$1.6 million on prescription drug purchases since the program's inception in Catawba County in 2006.

"Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy," said Jo Sloan, Program Administrator for Catawba County Social Services. "Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance."

How does it work? This innovative program is offered to counties who are members of NACo. There is no cost to taxpayers for participation in this program. Neither NACo nor the County receive any revenue from the discount drug program. The plan is administered by Caremark, headquartered in Nashville, Tenn. which negotiates the discounts directly with the drug manufacturers and pharmacies within their network.

"The free discount cards are available to every family residing in Catawba County -- with no age, income or health restrictions. All commonly prescribed prescription medications, including pet medications, are eligible for a discount. The discounts are available to consumers *who do not have prescription drug insurance or the particular drug they need is not covered by their insurance.*" Sloan reported that although not all drugs are eligible for a discount, the citizen "saves money with the card on 75% of their drug purchases. Currently in Catawba County, the average savings is 27 percent off the regular retail price the consumer would otherwise pay at the pharmacy."

"Catawba County is proud to be one of the counties participating with NACo," said Sloan. "The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our county, and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan. Currently, over 2000 citizens use the card each month, but we would like to get the word out to others who might benefit from this program. "

Cards are available at many sites across the County; including:

- Catawba County Social Services
- Catawba County Health Department
- All Catawba County Public Libraries
- All Hickory City Public Libraries
- West Hickory Senior Citizens Center
- The Cooperative Christian Ministry of Hickory
- The Eastern Cooperative Christian Ministry in Newton
- The Salvation Army
- Many local pharmacies
- Centro Latino
- The United Hmong Association

For more information on the program, visit www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/Health/Drug.asp or contact Jo Sloan, Catawba County Social Services at (828) 695-5667.

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